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SKYBOUND
123

THE WALKING DEAD



[Signature] 9/13

ALL OUT WAR

CHAPTER 9 of 12 KIRKMAN • ADLARD • GAUDIANO • RATHBURN

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING DEAD™

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Letterer

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Cover Colors

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Editor

Previously:

While Eugene believes Dwight's playing both sides, other Savors seem open to rebelling against their leader. Prepping for their next attack, Negan instructs his troops to coat their weapons with zombie guts for maximum damage... just as the Kingdom consolidates all their forces at Hilltop.

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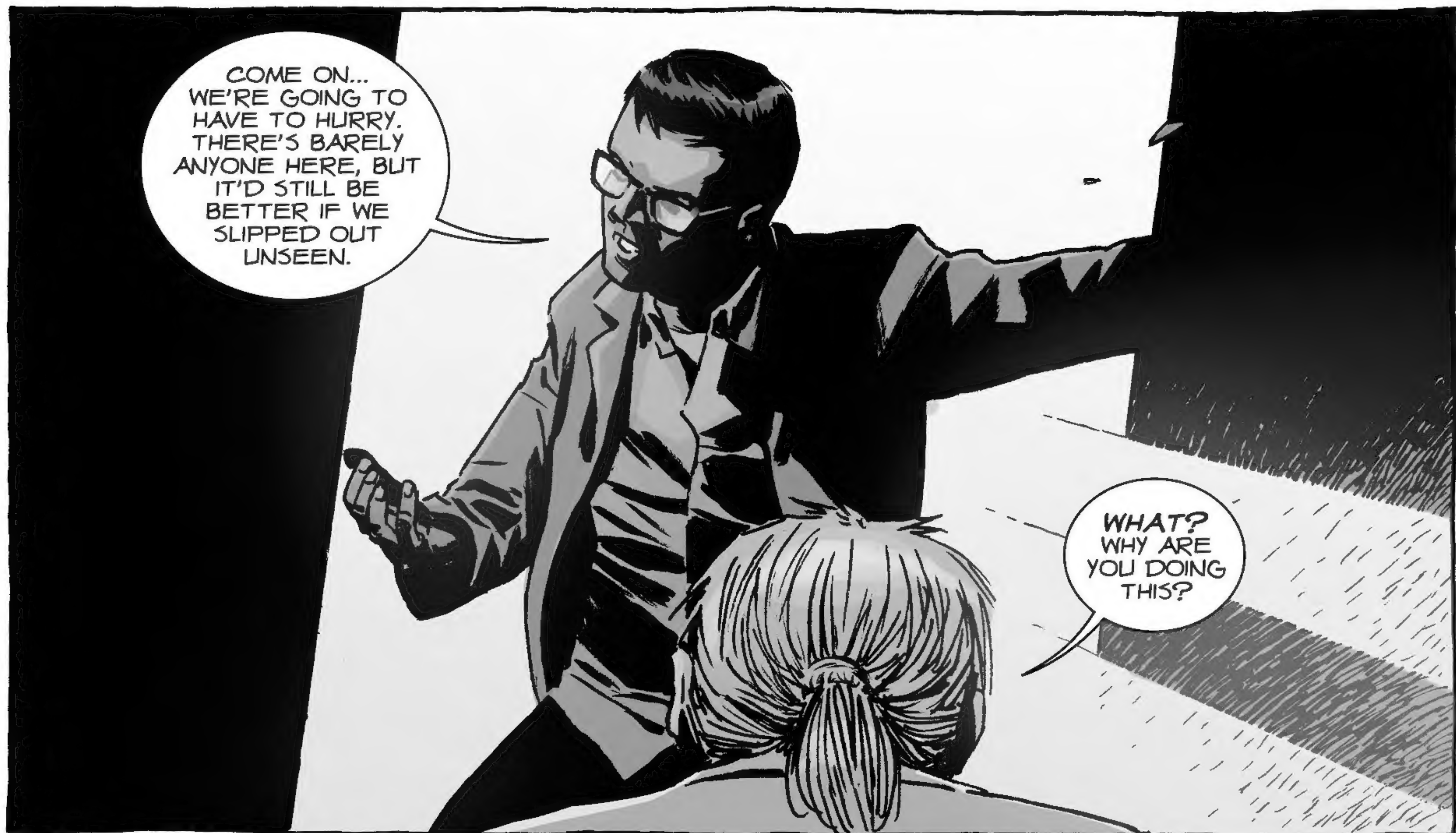
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HUH?



COME ON...
WE'RE GOING TO
HAVE TO HURRY.
THERE'S BARELY
ANYONE HERE, BUT
IT'D STILL BE
BETTER IF WE
SLIPPED OUT
UNSEEN.

WHAT?
WHY ARE
YOU DOING
THIS?



IN THE GRAND SCHEME
OF THINGS... DOES THAT
REALLY MATTER
RIGHT NOW?



AN
EXCELLENT
POINT.

WHERE
ARE MY
FRIENDS?



THIS
WAY.



THEY'RE
IN HERE.

ARE THEY
OKAY? DID
HE HURT
THEM?

NO...
NO, HE
DIDN'T.



C'MON,
WE'RE
GETTING
OUT OF
HERE.



WHICH
WAY?

UH...



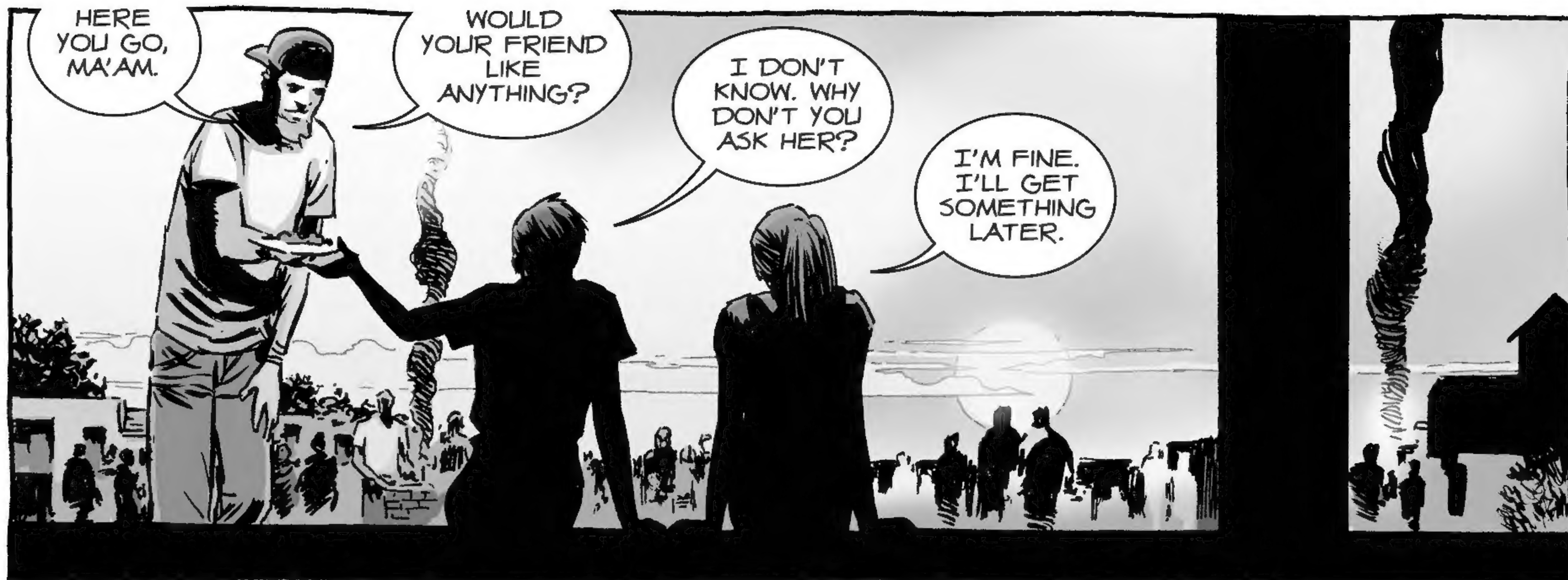
IT'S OKAY.
WE'RE NOT
GOING TO SAY
ANYTHING.

JUST
TAKE US
WITH YOU.



OKAY.

EVERYONE
FOLLOW
ME.



HERE YOU GO, MA'AM.

WOULD YOUR FRIEND LIKE ANYTHING?

I DON'T KNOW. WHY DON'T YOU ASK HER?

I'M FINE. I'LL GET SOMETHING LATER.



THANKS, OSCAR.



WELL... I HAVE TO BE HONEST. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU HERE.

I'M TRYING NOT TO BE OFFENDED BY THAT.



PLEASE DON'T BE. I'M JUST... YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE THIS LIFE IS GOING TO TAKE YOU, Y'KNOW?

I NEVER SAW MYSELF LIKE THIS... FACE ALL CUT UP... LIVING WITH A GUN AT MY SIDE. YOU'VE GROWN INTO A ROLE... THE THINGS WE'VE LOST... IT MAKES US STRONGER.



...
NOT THAT IT MAKES THOSE THINGS WORTH ENDURING. I'M SORRY, THAT MAYBE SOUNDED HARSH.

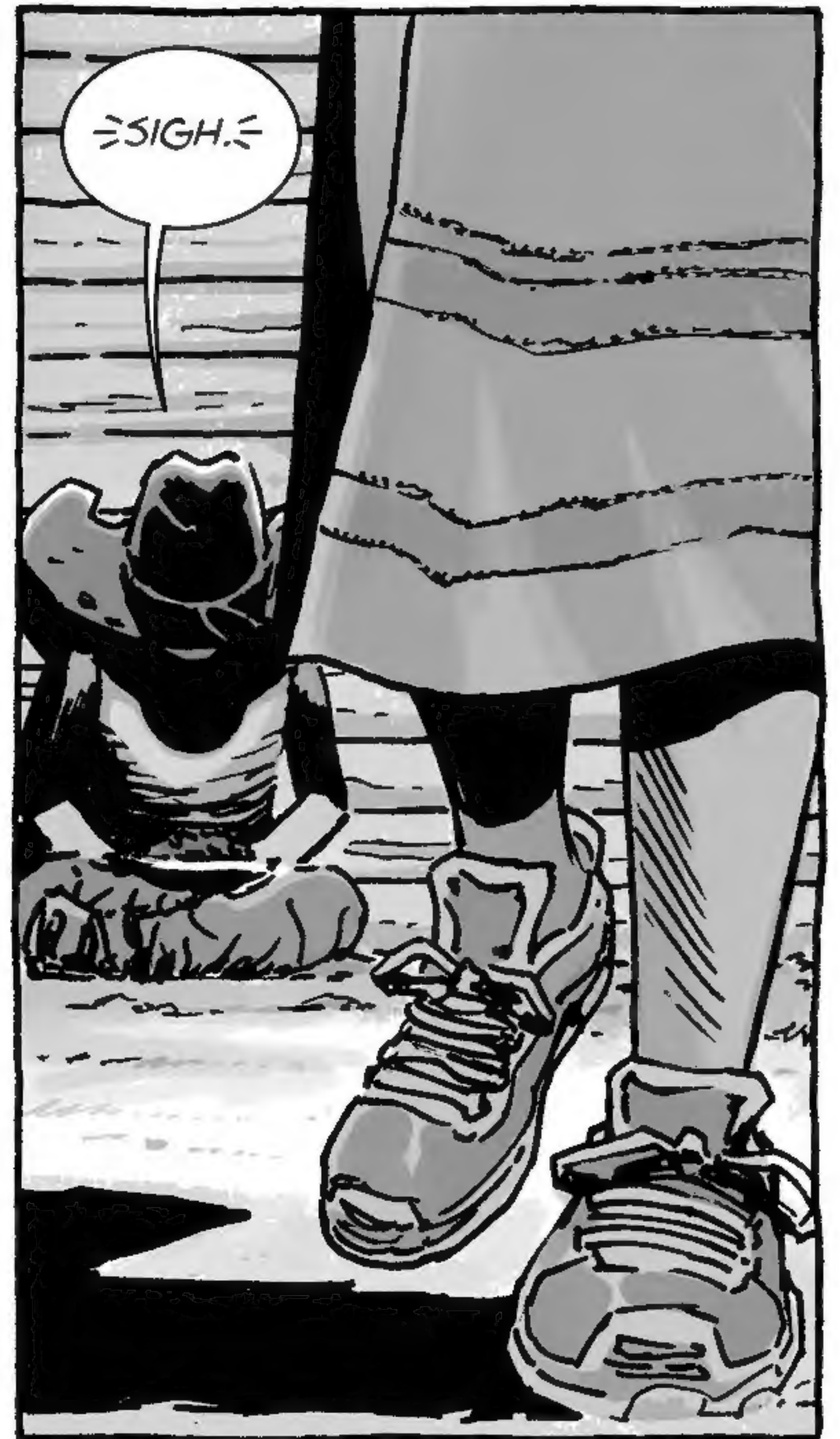
I DON'T MEAN FOR THIS TO SOUND AS COLD AS IT'S GOING TO SOUND... BUT... YOU LOST YOUR DALE... MAYBE YOU'VE GOT A RICK OUT THERE.

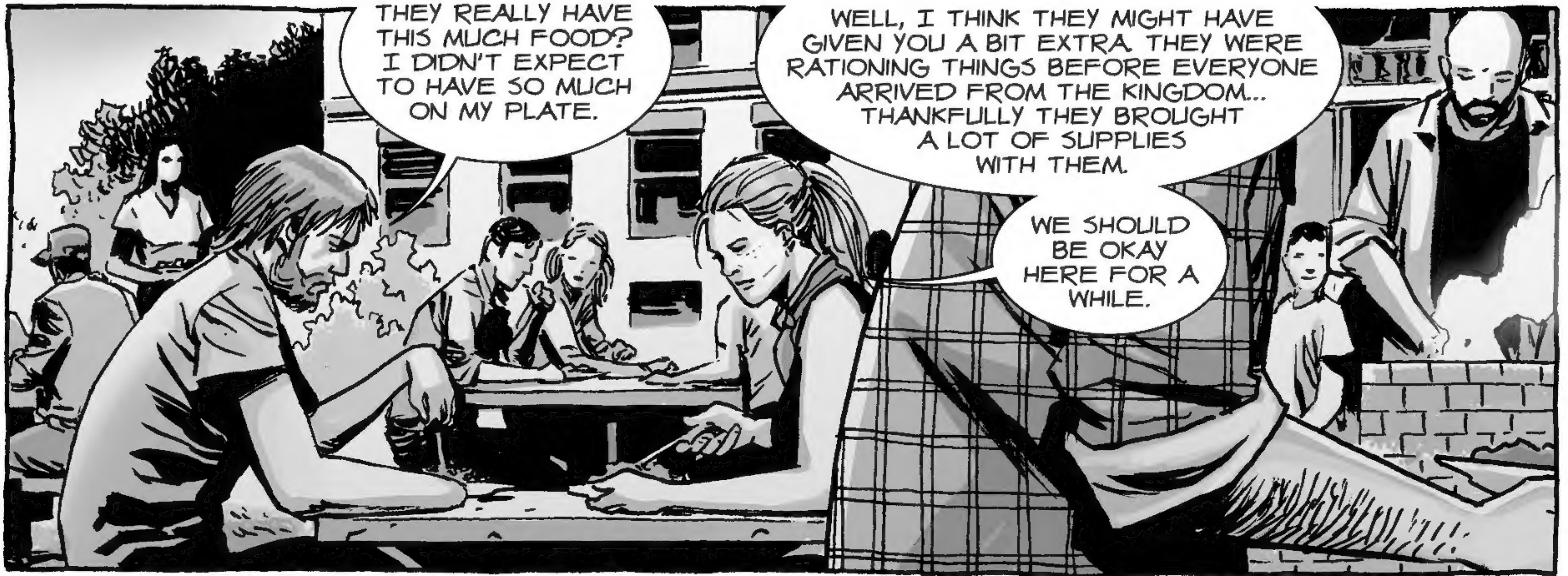


NO.

I KNOW YOU MEAN WELL, BUT NO.

I'M GOING TO BE ALONE UNTIL THE DAY I DIE.





THEY REALLY HAVE THIS MUCH FOOD? I DIDN'T EXPECT TO HAVE SO MUCH ON MY PLATE.

WELL, I THINK THEY MIGHT HAVE GIVEN YOU A BIT EXTRA. THEY WERE RATIONING THINGS BEFORE EVERYONE ARRIVED FROM THE KINGDOM... THANKFULLY THEY BROUGHT A LOT OF SUPPLIES WITH THEM.

WE SHOULD BE OKAY HERE FOR A WHILE.



WELL, THAT'S GOOD... BECAUSE WE MIGHT BE HERE A WHILE.

MIGHT BE HERE FOR GOOD, RIGHT?



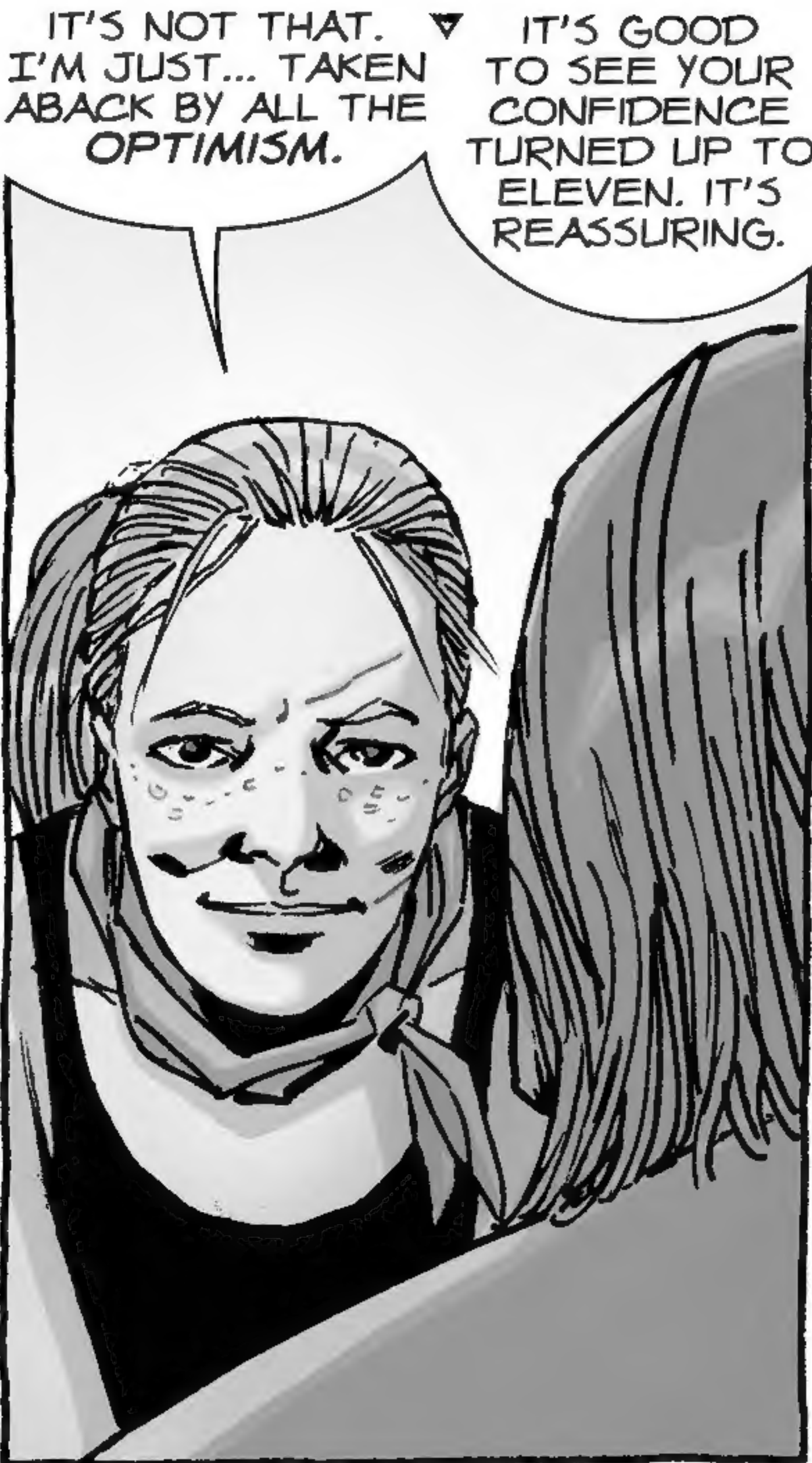
NO, I DON'T THINK SO. WE'LL TAKE DOWN NEGAN, AND WE'LL REBUILD OUR COMMUNITY... GET IT BACK IN WORKING ORDER.

WE'LL GO BACK HOME. IT'S GOOD TO HAVE OUR OWN PLACE.



OKAY, WHAT... WHAT IS THAT?

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?



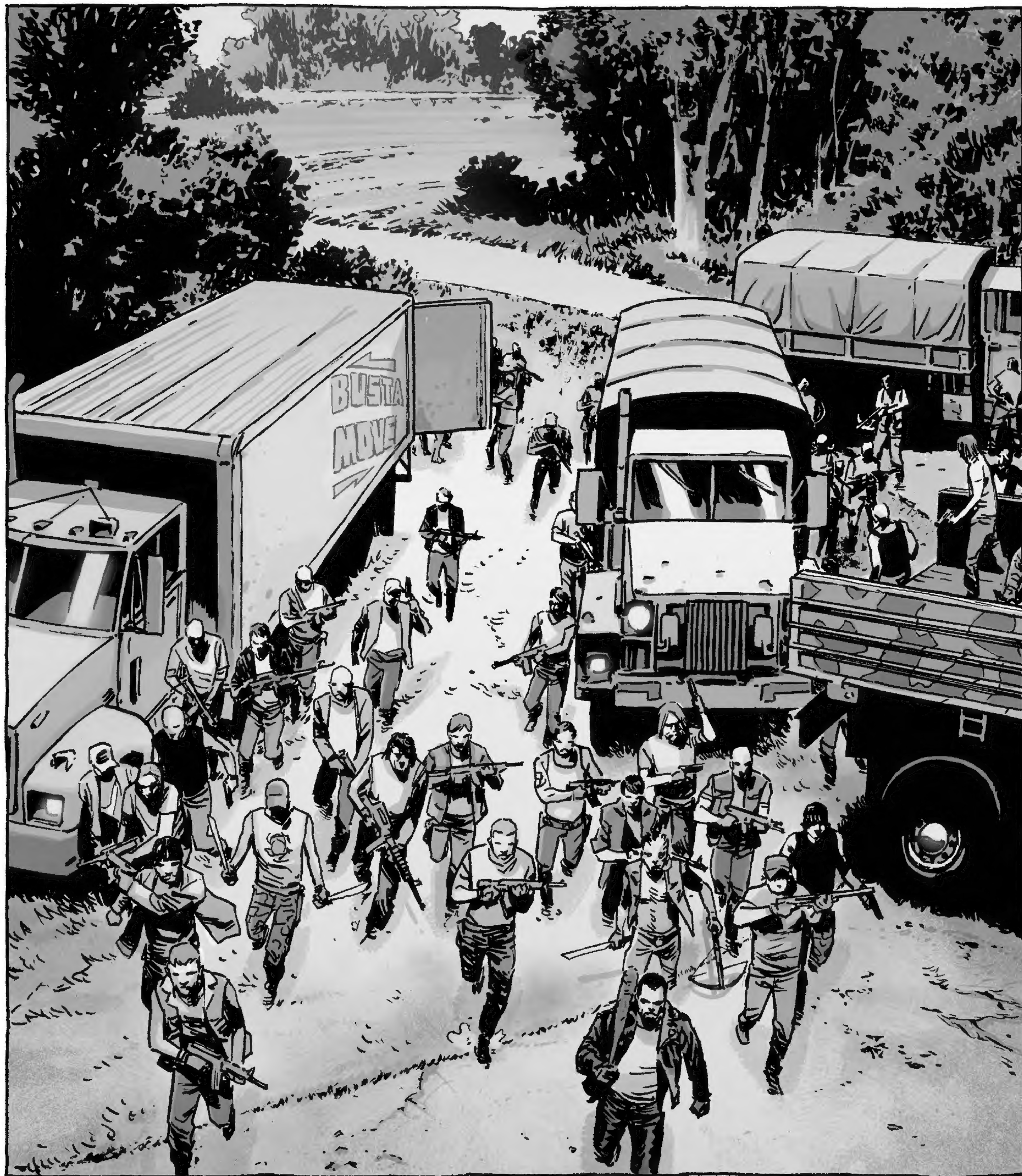
IT'S NOT THAT. I'M JUST... TAKEN ABACK BY ALL THE OPTIMISM.

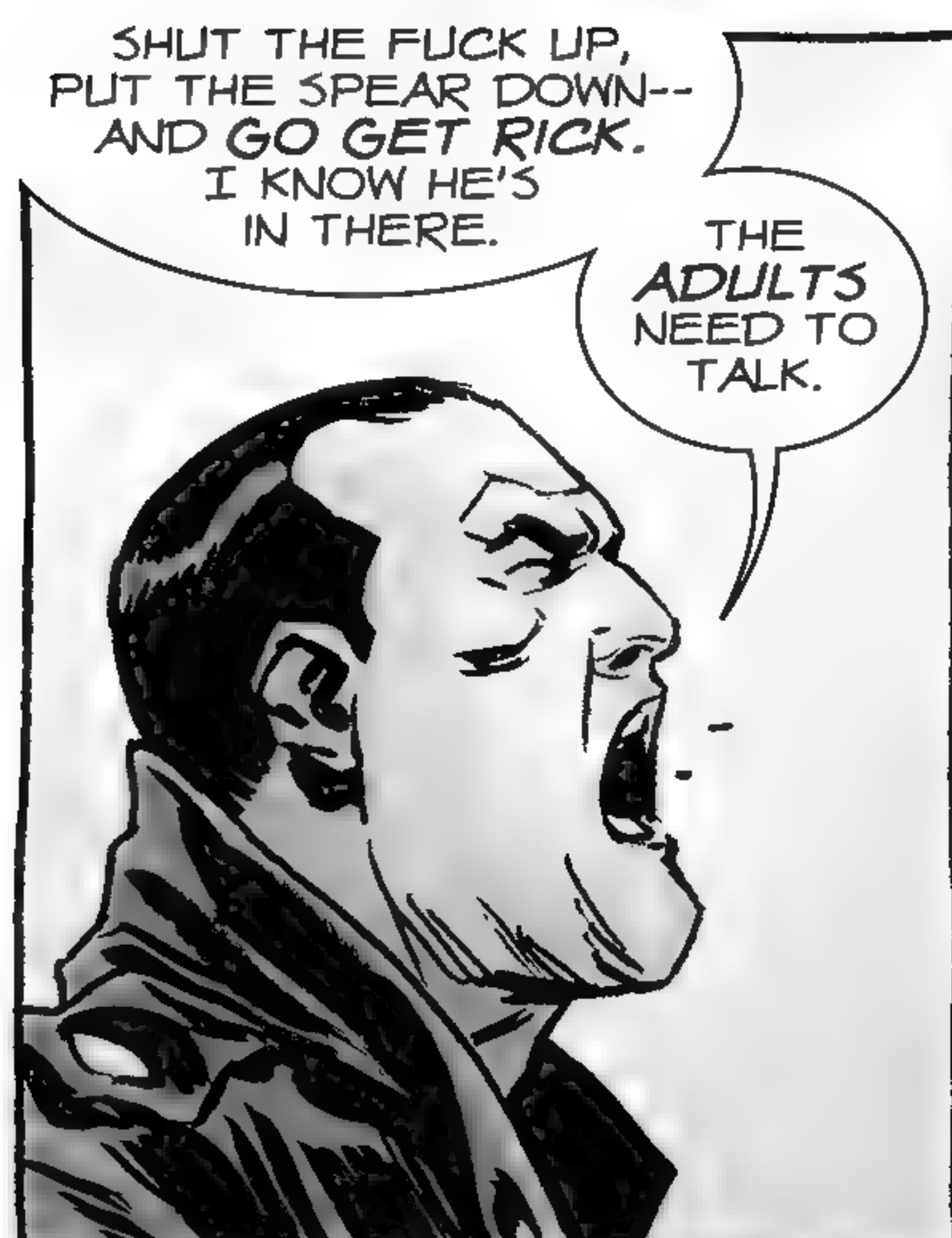
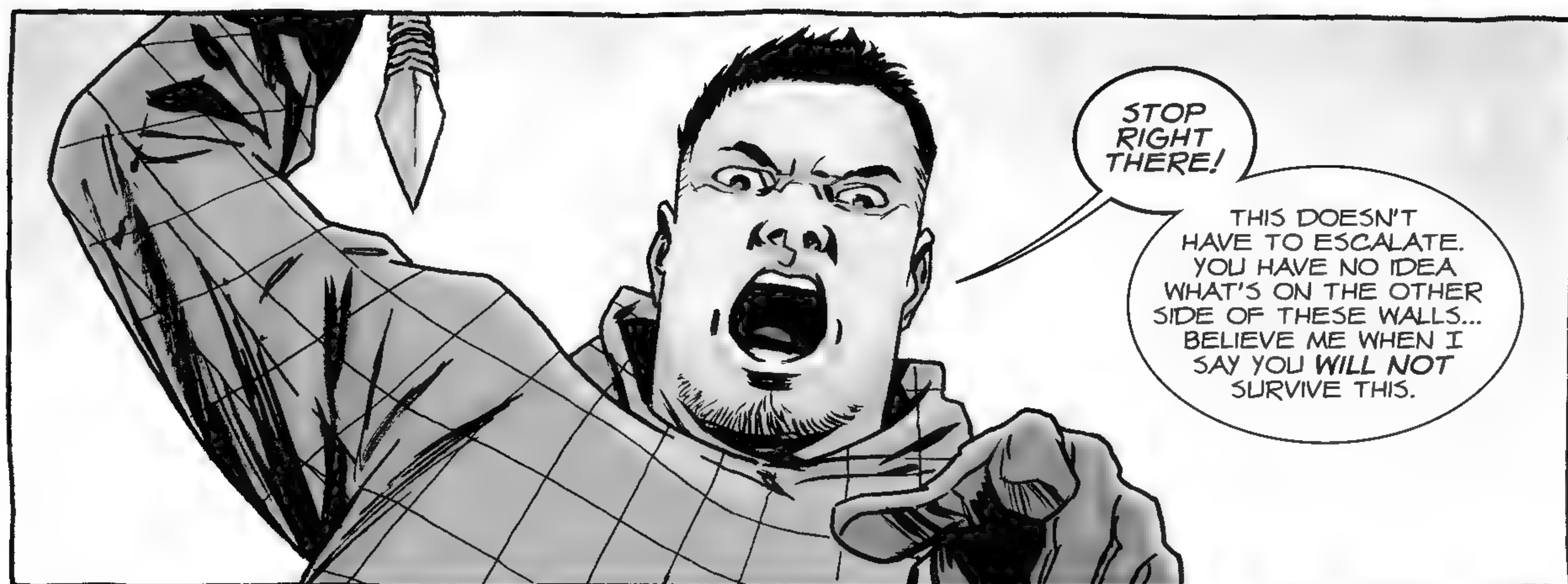
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOUR CONFIDENCE TURNED UP TO ELEVEN. IT'S REASSURING.



I DON'T KNOW... MAYBE I'M CRAZY... BUT I LOOK OUT AT THE WORLD BEFORE US...











OKAY, LOOKS
LIKE WE'RE
GOING IN.

MOTHERFUCK.

MUCK UP YOUR WEAPONS--
WE'RE GOING TO GIVE
THESE FUCKERS A ONE-WAY
TICKET TO A LIFE OF
BEING AN UNDEAD
FUCK.



MAKE SURE YOU
GET ALL YOUR
ARROWS
DIRTY.



GOTTA BE CAREFUL
NOT TO ALTER THE
WEIGHT... AND
THEY'RE CALLED
BOLTS.



WHAT-
THE-FUCK-
EVER.

CHRIST.

WE'RE COMING IN, RICK!
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE
TO HANG YOUR BARE ASS
OVER THE SIDE OF THAT
WALL AND LET ME CLIMB
UP AND SLAP IT RED
FOR YOU GETTING YOUR
MAN KILLED JUST
NOW.



IT'S
THE RIGHT
THING
TO DO!

...



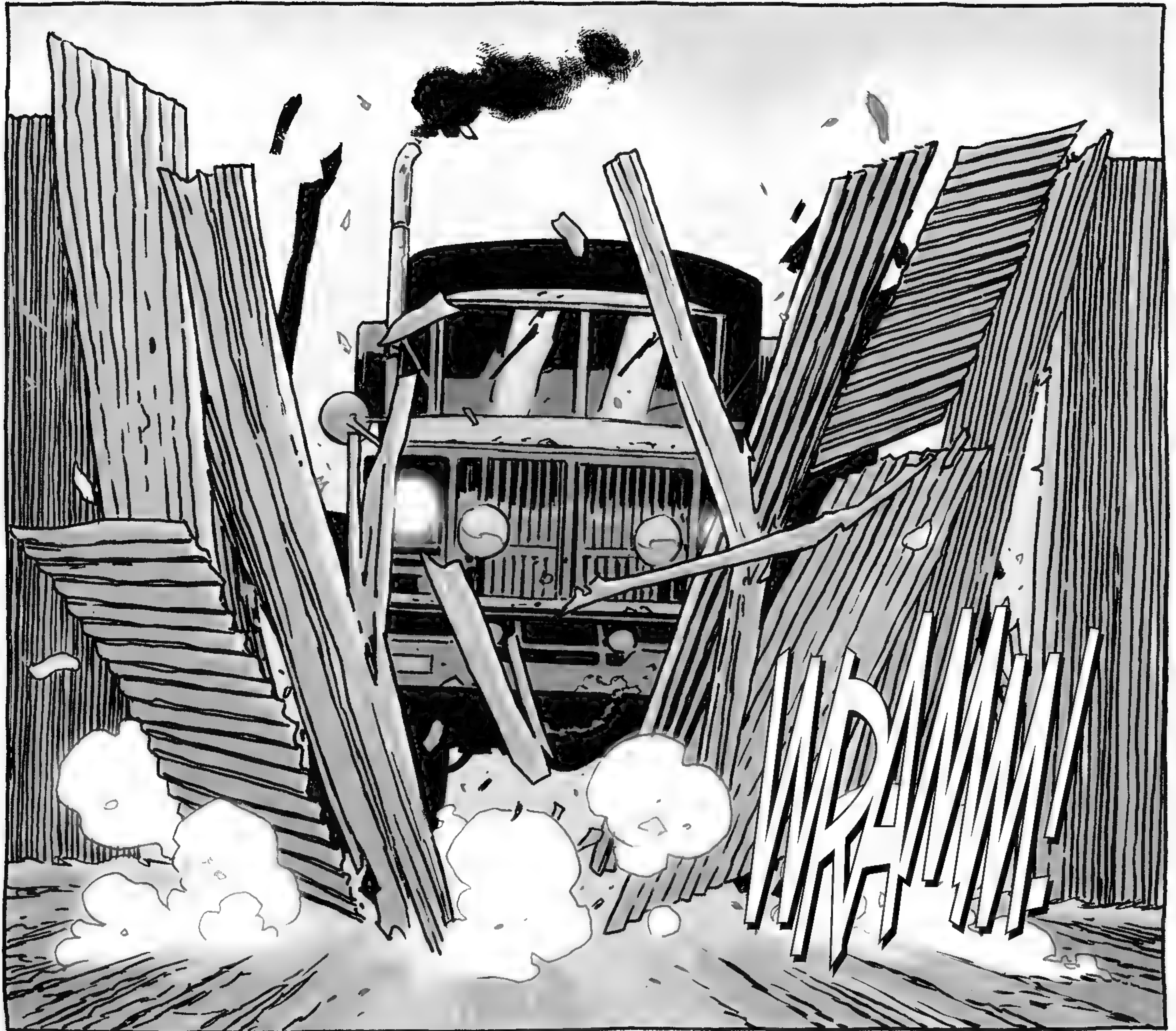
OKAY! ANYONE IN
EARSHOT--LISTEN
THE FUCK
UP!

LAY DOWN AND
BURY YOUR FUCKING
FACE IN THE FUCKING
DIRT! GOT IT? PUT
YOUR FUCKING HANDS
BEHIND YOUR
BACK!

AND
DON'T
FUCKING
MOVE!

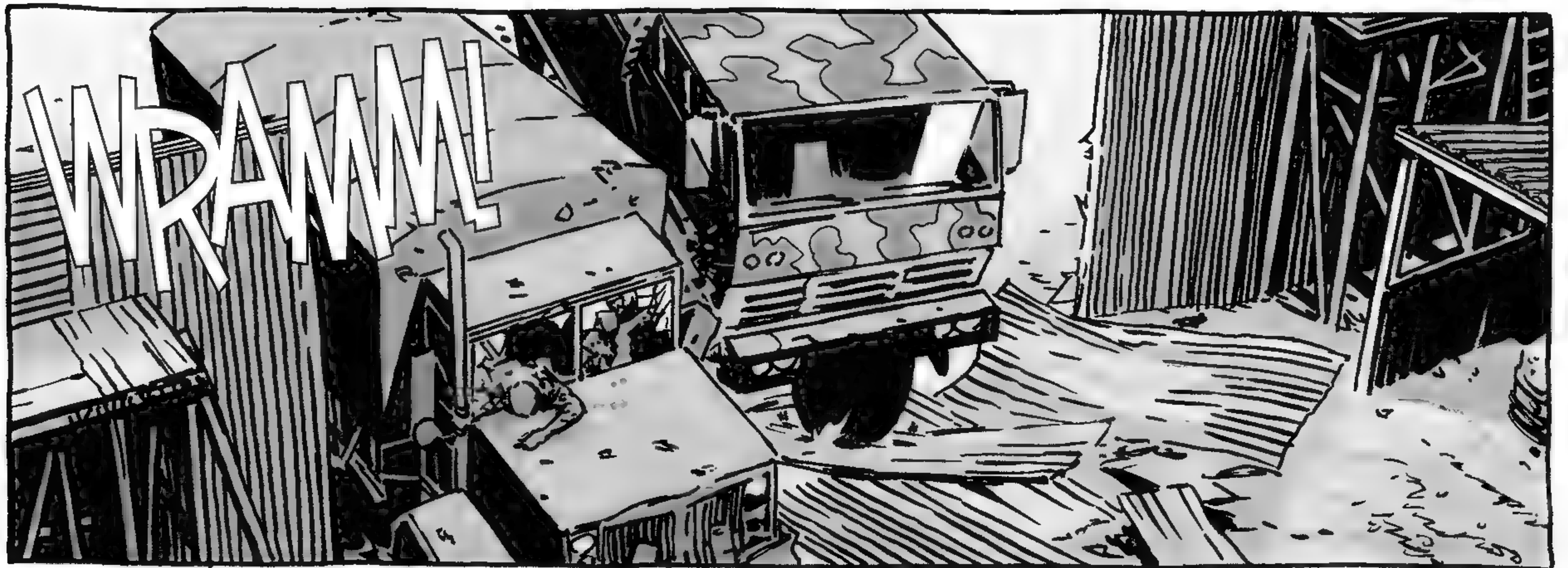
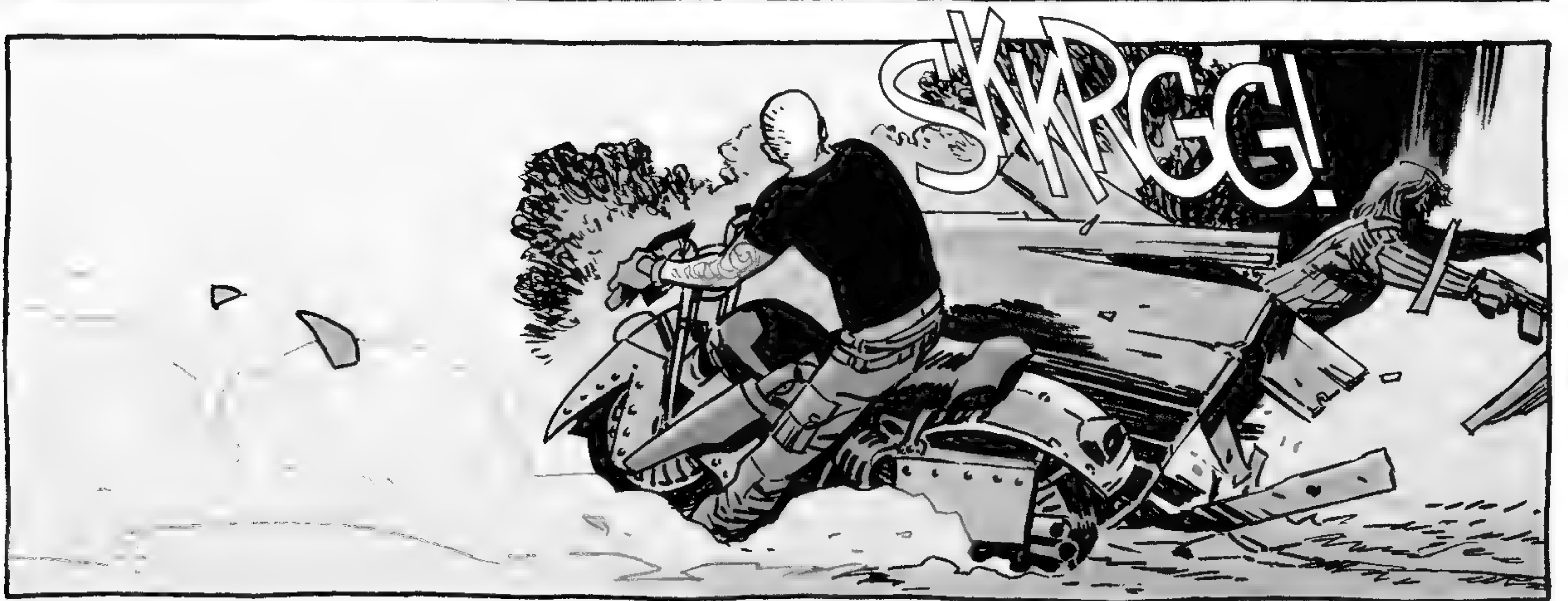
YOU
SURRENDER--
YOU LIVE.
OTHERWISE--
WE'RE MOWING ALL
YOU FUCKERS
DOWN!

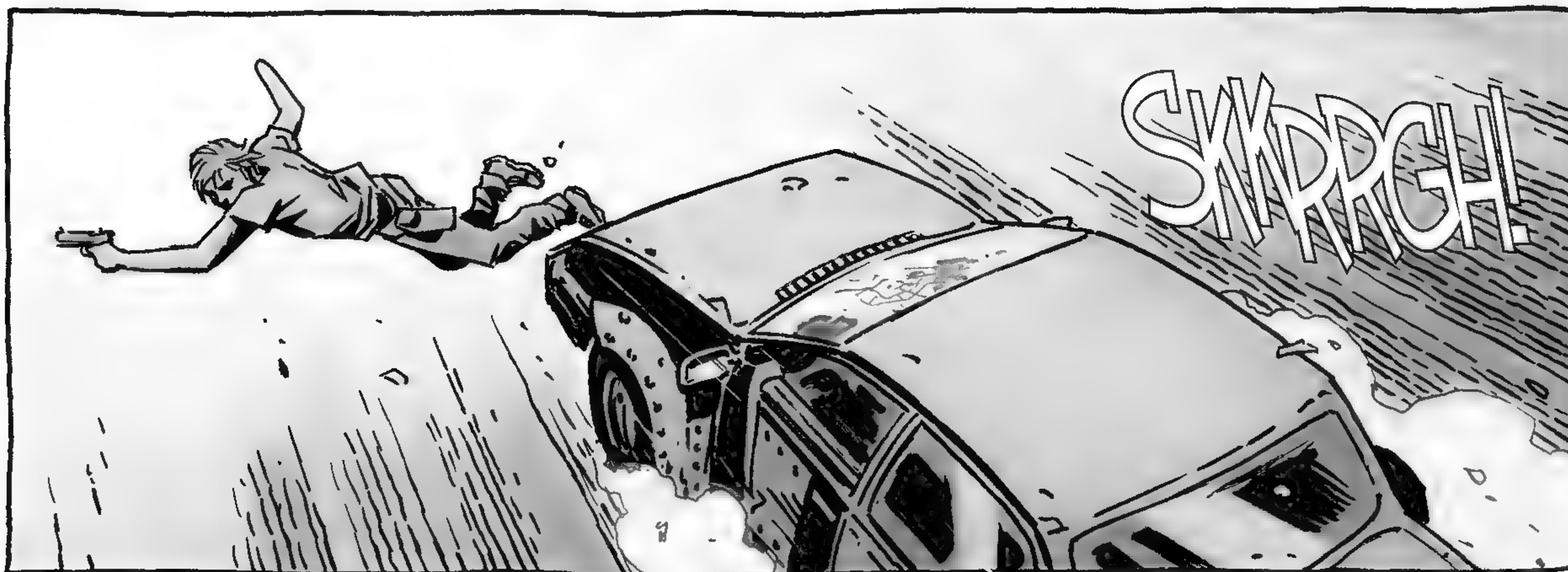
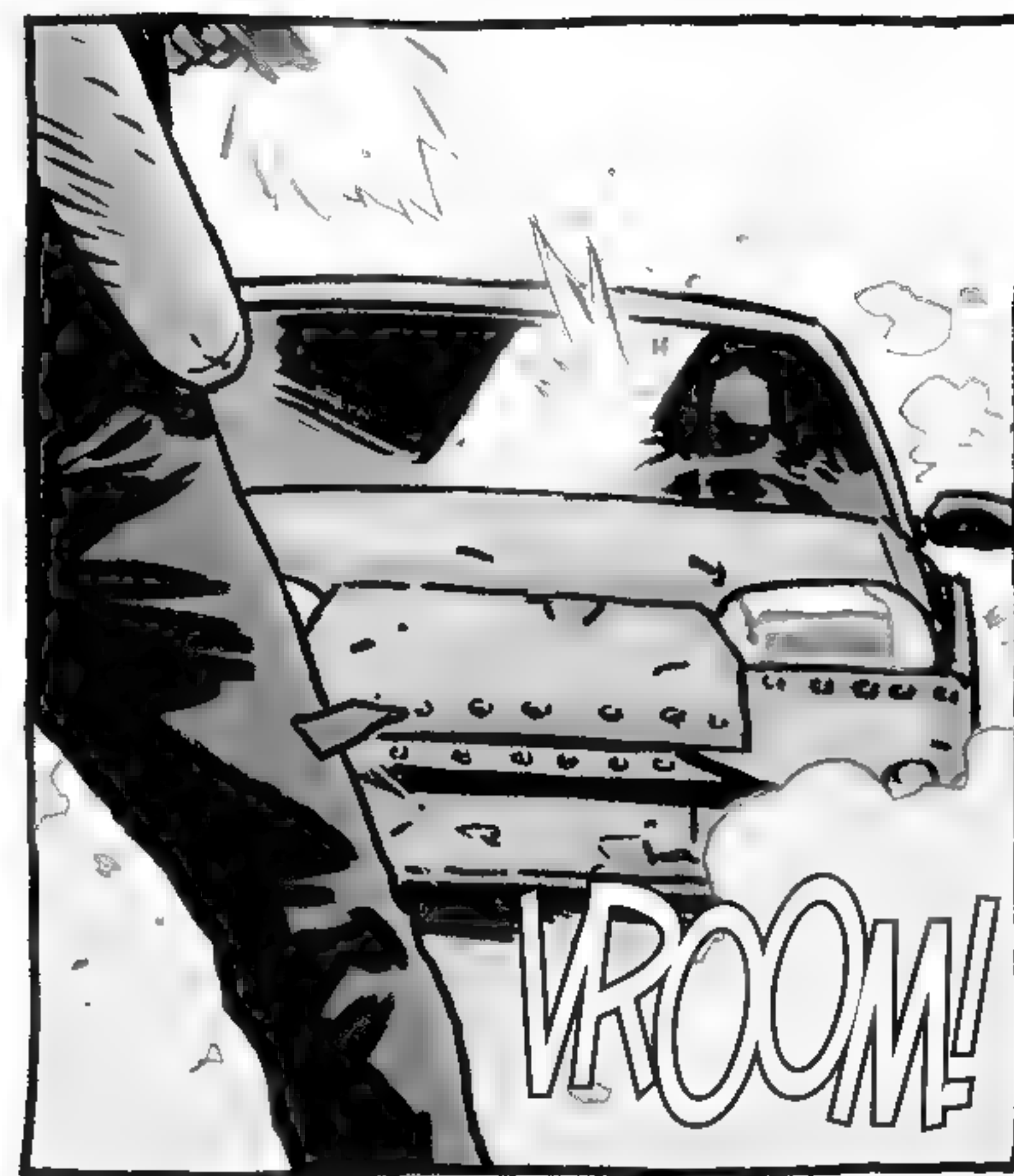
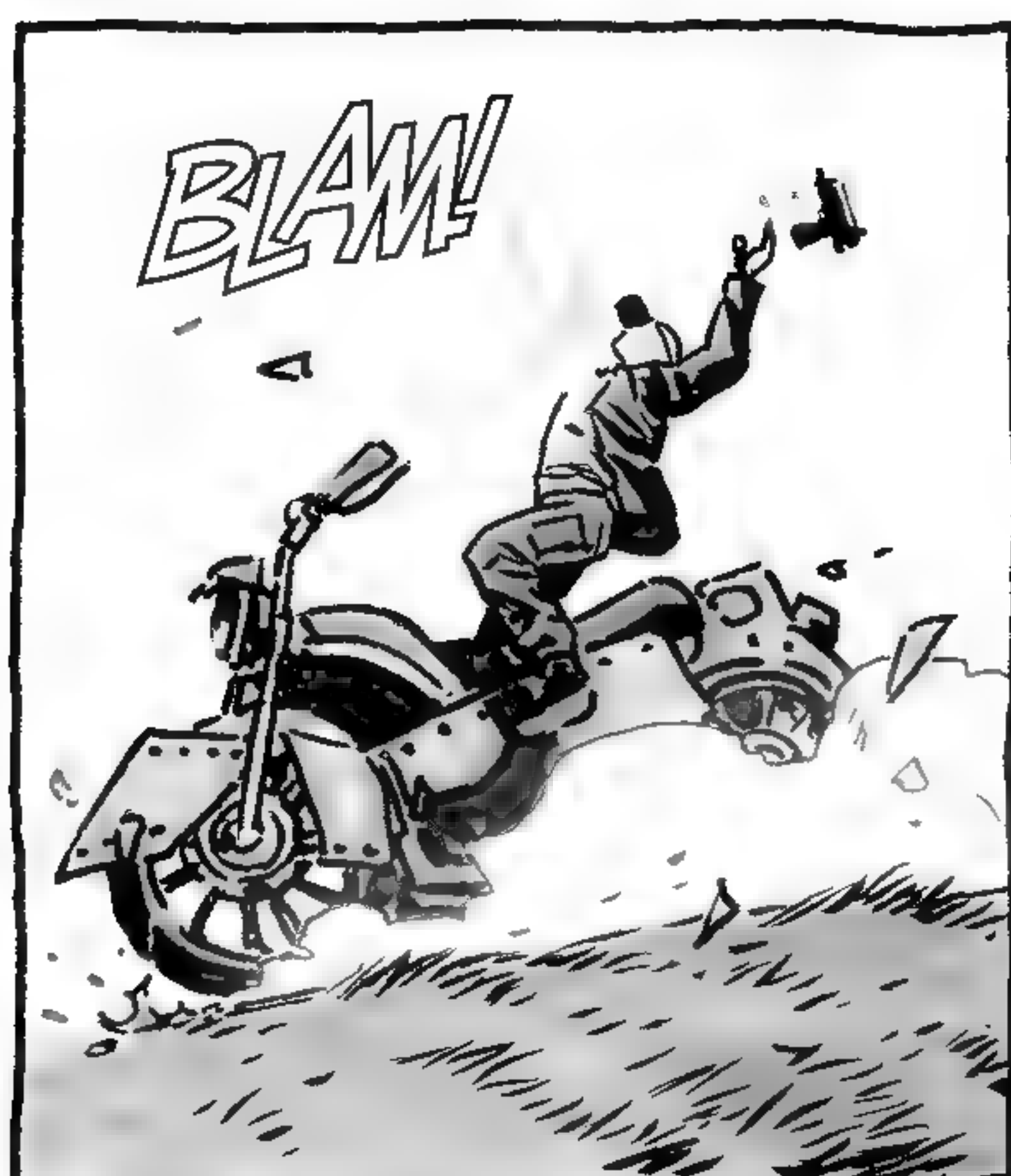
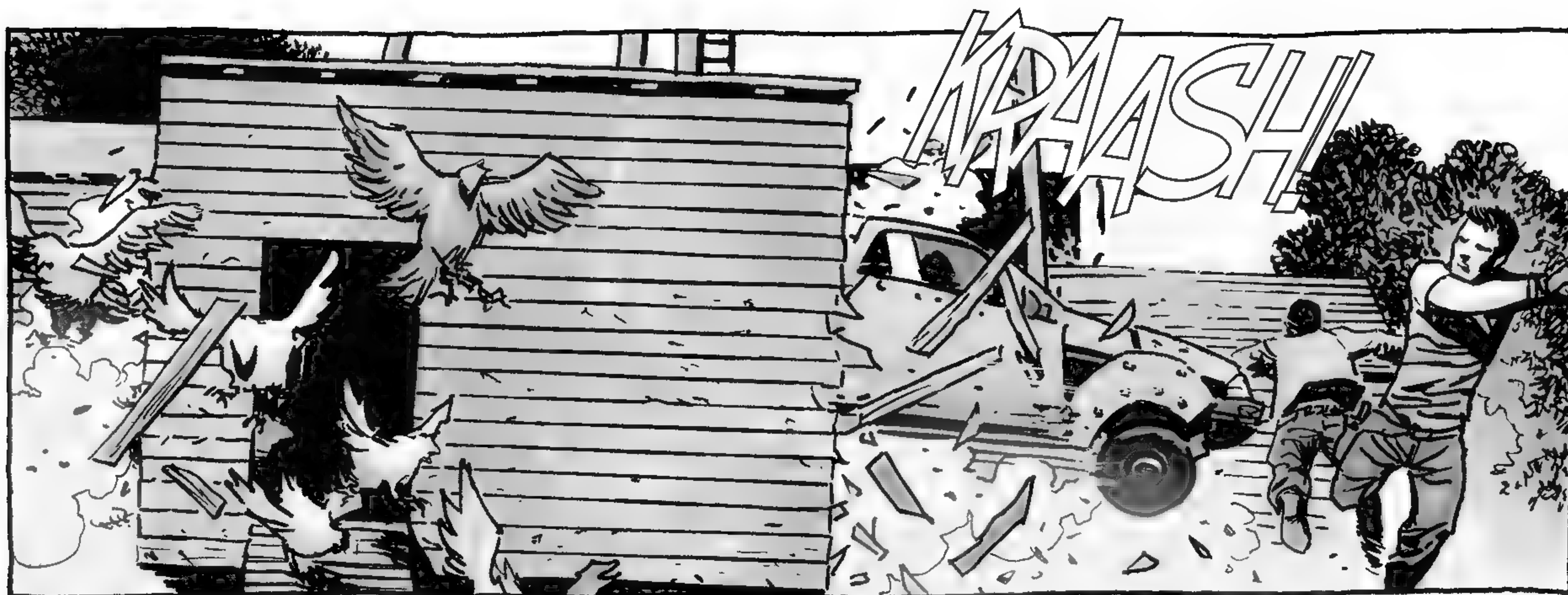
YOU
HAVE BEEN
WARNED.

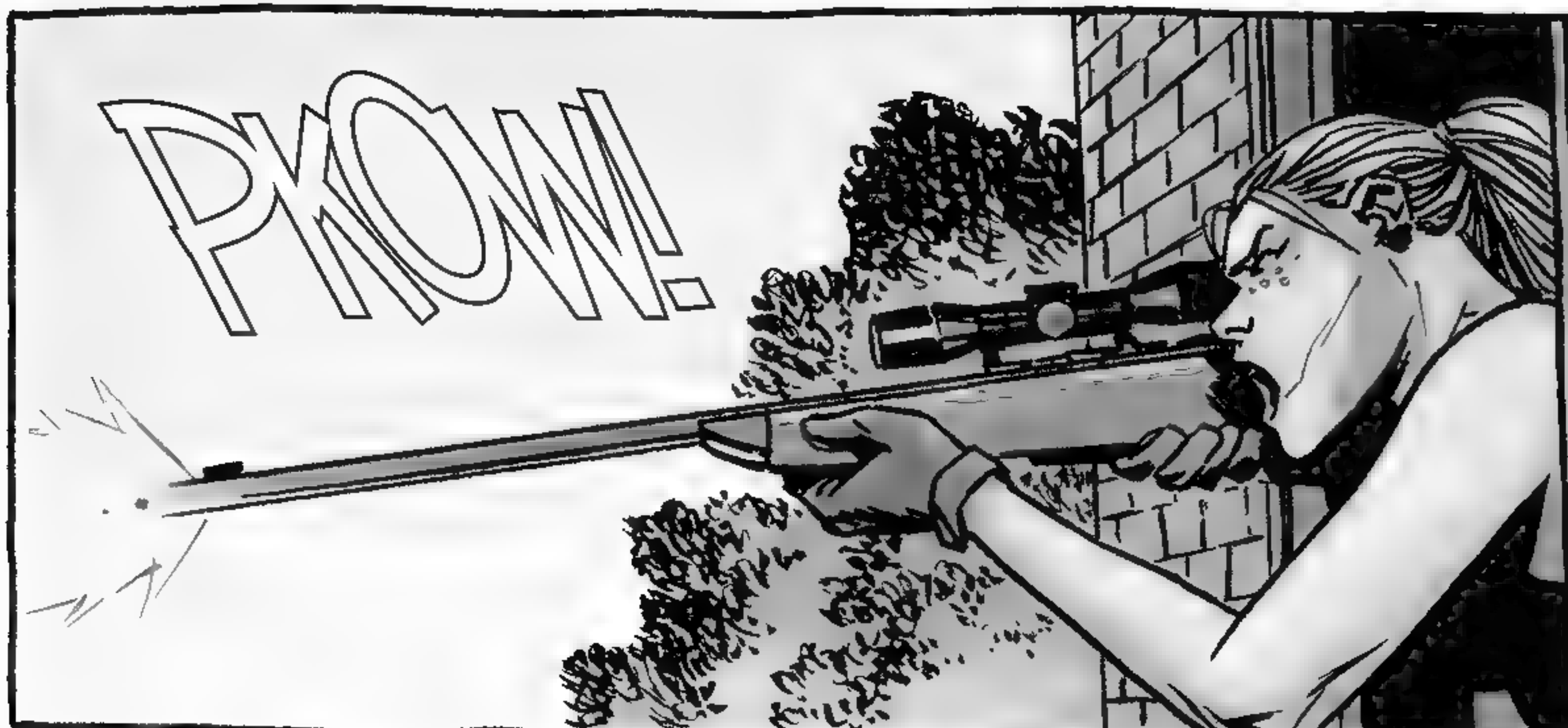
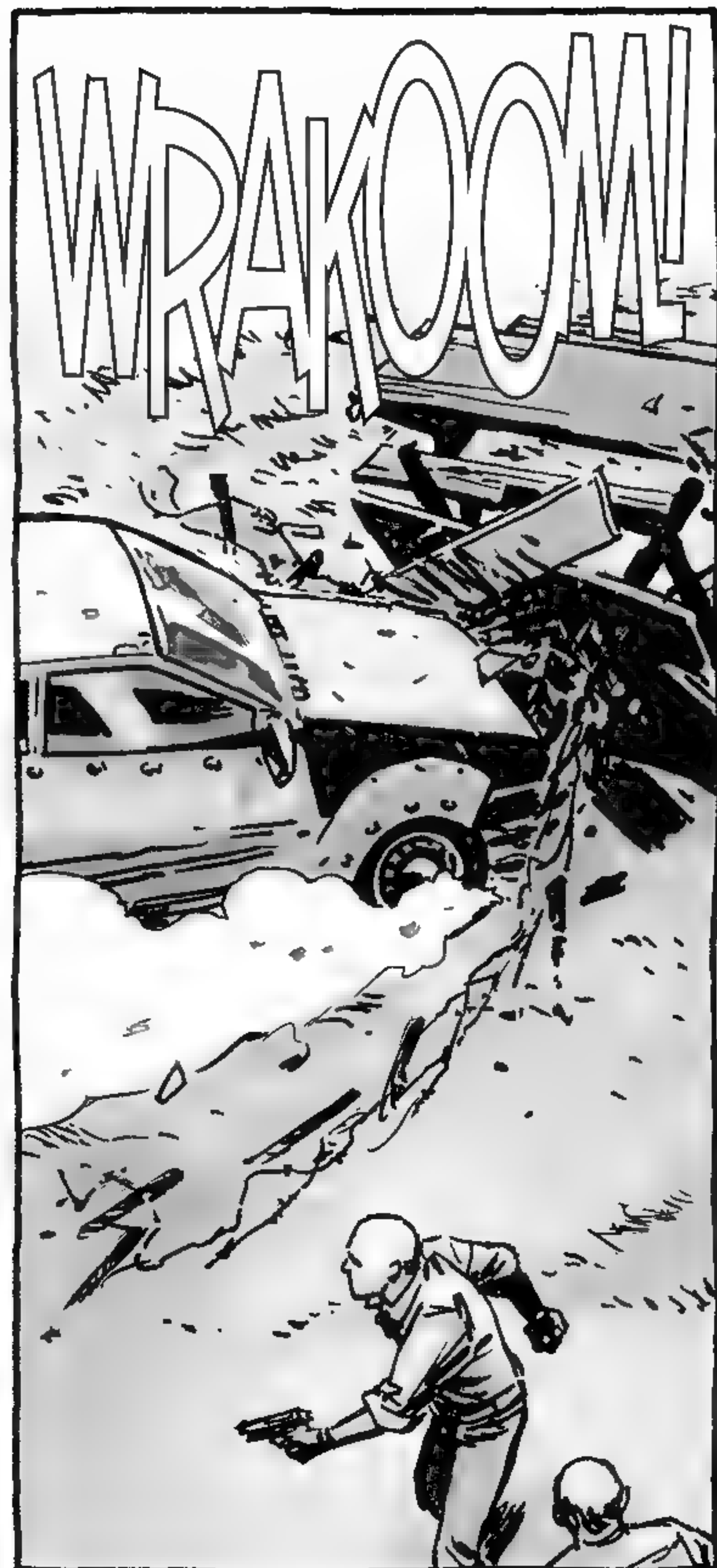














KEEP THEM
PINNED DOWN!
WE'VE GOT TO
KEEP THEM
AWAY FROM
THE
HOUSE!

I'M GOING
TO TAKE A
GROUP AROUND--
TRY TO BOX
THEM IN.



THE CARS!
SHUT THEM
DOWN!



WE'RE
TRYING!

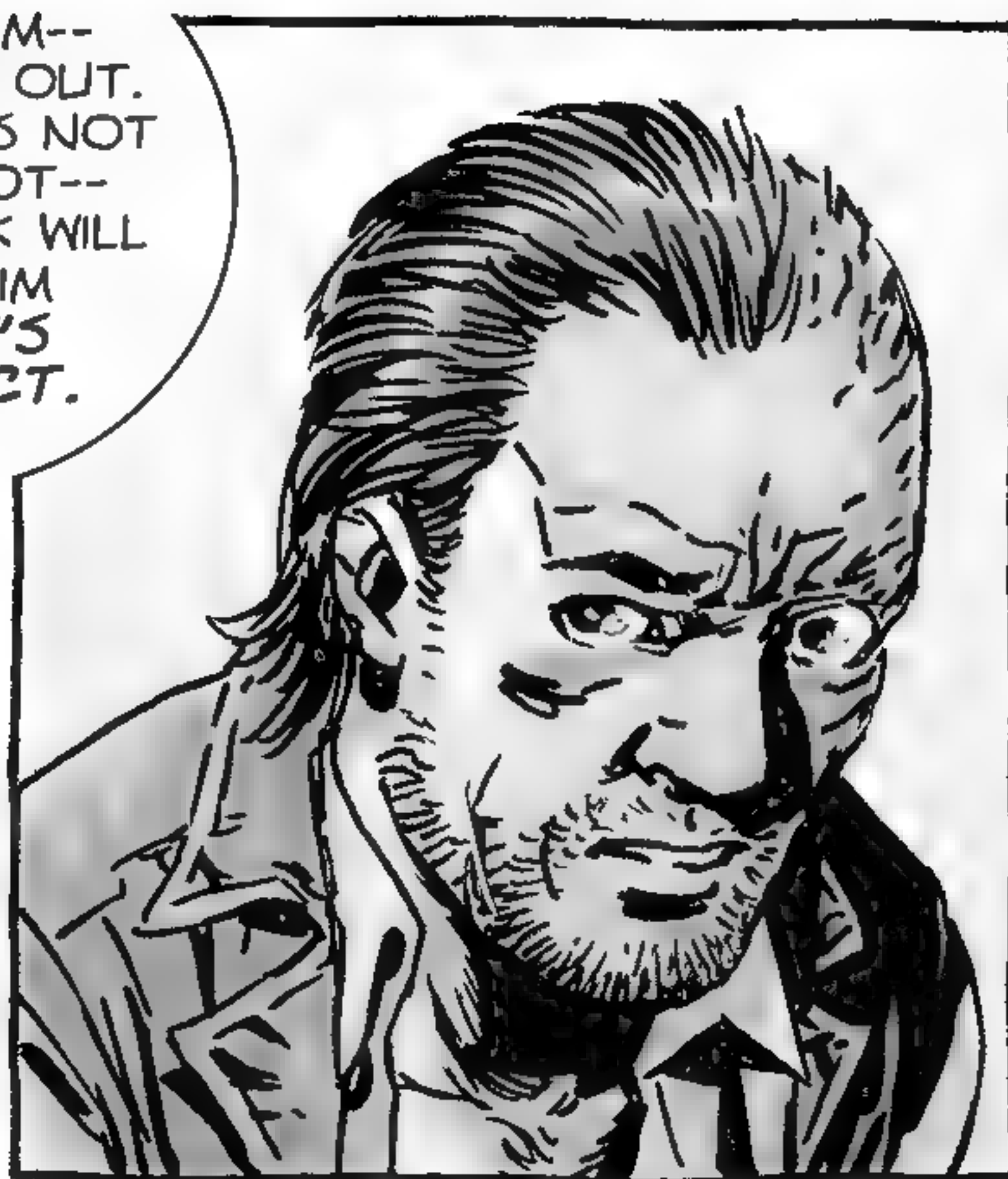
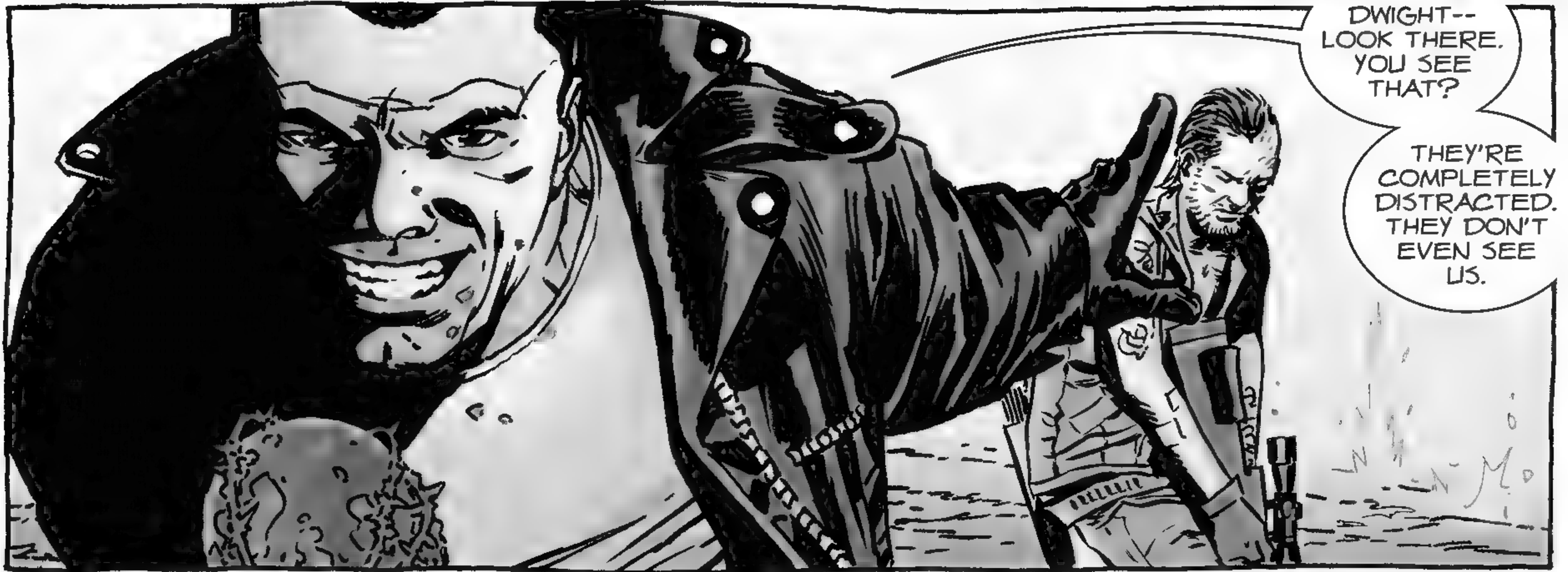


NICHOLAS!
AARON!
YOU'RE WITH
ME--COME
ON!



SPREAD
OUT! IF IT
MOVES--
FUCKING
KILL IT!







LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM

Sometimes you have to let a page speak for itself, and I think this issue clears up, at the very least, the issue of Dwight's loyalty... and to say where we go from here will be quite monumental...

Yeah... let's just leave it at that.

LETTERS!

Dear Kirkman...

You bastard! How could you kill off my favorite character; Heath's Leg? That leg was always running around gathering supplies to keep people alive but what now? Blown away! And his booty doctor chick got bitten! What is left for poor Heath? One good leg? Come on! When will this war end? It has gone too far!

I almost lost it with Rick's hand and then Carl's eye but this is too much.

Anyway, love the comic! Looking forward to another decade, at least!

Ben P
Grand Rapids

Eventually all the dismembered parts will assemble and form a brand new character. Cool, right?

That's been done in a comic before. Research your jokes, Mackiewicz.

You guys missed out big with those grenades and Lucille. how bad ass would that have been to bat one in and have it hit carl?

Zack

Lucille batting a grenade? Pretty cool (potentially dumb as well). At Carl? Not cool.

Not cool at all.

Kirkman, you're a fucking dick tease. A grenade goes off behind Carl and I think to myself, "Man, Kirkman is really putting it to this kid. Look at how close that grenade was to him. Look at the beautiful swan dive he's taking from the blast. He's got to be dead this time, right?" Nope, nope, and fucking NO! "I'm okay, dad. I'm okay.."? Are you fucking serious?! "It just knocked me down."? What the fuck?! I'd expect the kids back to be shredded by shrapnel, not to mention internal injuries from the blast wave itself. Man, that kid has more lives than a fucking cat... Wait a minute, you killed Shiva. Where was her extra lives, huh?

Any rate, keep up the great work. I can't wait to see how All Out War turns out, and I'm looking forward to how you're going to put Carl through the wringer next. He's one tough little fuck.

Craig Johnson
Webster City, IA

Wimp.

Yeah, Carl could have been seriously injured being that close to that grenade blast. He was lucky that time. He's been very unlucky in the past. Cut the kid some slack.

Dear Kirkman & crew,

What was the significance of Rick leaving the phone he used to communicate with dead Lori with behind?

Roberto Laboy
Alexandria, Virginia

The significance is that he left the phone he used to communicate with dead Lori behind.

He hasn't used it in a while, he put it away... but he never got rid of it. By leaving it behind, he's y'know... leaving that part of his life behind. But as revealed this issue... he plans on eventually going back to Alexandria. So maybe it was part of his plan all along. We'll see.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I love Jesus! And I love Jesus. I know he only got a few panels in issue #121, but I've been meaning to write to you about how much affection I have for the character for awhile. I know (it's been said, right?) that Walking Dead Jesus isn't supposed to have any symbolic connection to Bible Jesus, but I can't help but equate them in my mind. Walking Dead Jesus is a nice guy--he's open, he's honest, he's compassionate. But he also gets the job done, and very effectively at that. I think the Jesus from the Bible was like that in some ways--always concerned about people, about doing the right thing, but very down to earth and practical. You gotta have your head in the clouds and your feet firmly planted on the ground, you know? Walking Dead Jesus seems to be like that. And by "head in the clouds" in his case, I mean he's an idealist--and he's also a realist. He's optimistic but he's not fooling himself that things aren't dire. Just like Bible Jesus. Maybe I'm projecting onto Walking Dead Jesus because he has the same name as Bible Jesus, but even so, you don't have to stretch to make a few positive comparisons.

All that's to say that when I see Jesus in Walking Dead, even if it's for a few panels, he always gives me hope. Rick is weighed down by so many things, but Jesus is here and now, right by your side, ready to serve. And the thing is, even if he dies, it's okay because he made everything around him better by being there. Even if he dies horribly, I know he'll be okay, because he also knows that he's done his best to make everything around him better just by being there. Not a bad thing for any of us to strive for, really.

I'm realizing now that I've made this distinction between Bible Jesus and Walking Dead Jesus that you could say that Bible Jesus is also Walking Dead Jesus. Because he was resurrected. Get it?

Love,
Jason M. Poole

This isn't a great letter by any means, but I enjoyed its message. Also, doesn't everyone go to school with some kid who grows out his hair and everyone calls him Jesus? Skybound has a convention booth worker who used to look like Jesus except then he cut all his hair off and is more like Judas.

Where'd that guy go? I liked that guy. Does he just help out in San Diego? Seems like it's been a while since I saw booth Jesus. Also... I don't remember him cutting his hair. Damn it... did I see him with a

haircut and not recognize him? That would be embarrassing.

To my dearest Walking Dead Team,

Issue 121 was definitely Not a letdown (even with y’all leaving out the return of zombie Shiva...but one can’t get everything one wants, now can they?)! Anywho, loved the story and especially the inks - Gaudiano...you rock. That splash page was uh-mazing, too! Fav moments included:

- 1. Carl calling Rick a wimp

Agreed!

- 2. Michonne volunteering to get the job done
- And
- 3. The very second to last panel when Negan leaves Eugene to weigh his options (seriously...this would be a tough choice for Eugene, don’t you think)?

To conclude...congratulations on making this book my favorite to read every (other) Wednesday (I’mma die when it goes back to monthly).

Maybe we won’t just so you keep living!

Your most dedicated dead-head,
Ryan N. Ray
Lexington, KY

PS. Shiva LIVES!!!

No she doesn’t!

Dear Robert Kirkman,

I am a dedicated reader of THE WALKING DEAD and I am loving “All Out War” but your hype about “the unthinkable” is such Hollywood B.S.

“Unthinkable” would have been Denise not turning and surviving a zombie bite, or Rick being killed and Maggie takes over the story line but having everyone moving to Hilltop is not only thinkable but obvious.

Kirkman you need to just stay focused on the story line and keep away from the hype. THE WALKING DEAD never disappoints but thinking that something truly “unthinkable” was going to happen was a BIG let down!!!

Best
Steve Rothman
Los Angeles, California

Steve, on the basis that you thought of those things, they are also not “unthinkable.” See how hard that is?

I think losing Alexandria was pretty unthinkable. I think getting hit with a barrage of grenades was unthinkable. But I get what you’re saying. We could have definitely pushed things more. Everyone could have died and the book could have followed Negan as he won that war and made the book about him... but that’s not where I want to go.

Stay tuned... there are PLENTY of unthinkable moments ahead.

Greetings Mr. Kirkman,

I’m curious about the creative process involved in creating so many different characters in The Walking Dead. There are a lot of characters that are, more or less, in the background and we may eventually hear their name mentioned by a main character and sometimes we see these background characters gain more development as the story moves forward. Do you create bios and backstories for all of your characters before you introduce them? For instance, did you create bios for a bunch of Saviors characters and then think this character would fit in really well in this part of the story? I think it would be very interesting to learn a little bit about how these characters are created and how and when you decide to insert them into the story. I’m also curious about how you map out the story arcs? I’ve read somewhere that you have mapped out the story upwards of something near 200 or so issues. If so, do you use that map as a flexible layout and then change certain aspects of it when you realize that something just doesn’t work or if you come up with something you think may work better? It would be really cool to see updated survivors guides with info for new and less common characters we don’t really know anything about. I think it would give readers a deeper look into who the people are that don’t really get a lot of page time in the series.

Thanks and keep up the good work,

Greg Taylor

Read all about Robert’s writing process in THE WALKING DEAD: CUTTING ROOM FLOOR, coming...

Shut up, Sean.

There’s not a 100% concrete set process, Greg. Any and all of what you proposed in your letter happens from time to time. I do have a rough outline for the next 200 issues or so, but I also come up with things on the fly and push storylines back to accommodate... all that time, that’s how you get roughly 200 issues worth of story backlogged. As far as individual characters, there are a lot of notes and things listing different character traits, but for the most part that stuff just goes onto the page and is kept track of in my scattered brain. It’s a mess!

Dear Kirkman & Co.
I wrote in a couple issues ago complaining about you wasting the tiger, throwing her away in a stupid short scene that really wasn’t that cool. But after reading 121 I just want to say that while I’m still a little pissed about that I really am glad you turned Ezekiel, the great and obnoxious king of the kingdom, into a huge pussy. There are already a solid amount of badass characters in the book, with Carl getting better as he goes, that introducing another few for All Out War seemed a bit ridiculous. But fortunately he’s just a giant pussy with combat performance anxiety. And that makes me feel better about it.

Calling him a pussy is a little ridiculous. He, like most of the others involved in this war, aren’t properly trained soldiers. He’s fought in several battles (not including answering the call to arms in #114), so he’s not a complete pussy...and then got his ass whupped to such a terrifying degree the last go-around that he didn’t want to get himself or any more men killed. If anything he’s kind of a front runner I guess, riding Rick’s coat tails? But his story’s not over yet, as you saw last issue... and he’s licking off shots this one, so stop calling him a pussy... you wimp.

What Sean said. He’s, y’know... a layered individual with many traits. He was even a little badass this issue.

Also, I love Charlie’s artwork, but there is no way a bunch of hand grenades would cause the kind of mass destruction to the town that’s depicted in 121. It looks like Dresden after WWII. Just saying.

Roberto

You’re wrong.

Hi there Robert &. Co.
Can you please make us a big favor and finally kill off that lame excuse of a man Negan. I can not stand this guy since you’ve first brought him in. I can not make it out, should he be a tough guy or some insecure moron, who swears at any sentence he brings out of his filthy mouth just to gain some respect out of lowlifes that view swearing as cool. Should he be respected or feared just because he is a pathetic Governor ripoff. I really do not dig any of this Negan hype at all. I hope that Rick or Carl will kill him of very soon and that we can see some better new storyline soon cause all this war thing is taking way too long.

Dean

Can’t please everybody...

I swear he has almost ZERO in common with the Governor. Male... leader of a community... I really just don’t get the comparison.

See you in two weeks when... yeah... we get more into that arrow thing that’s sticking out of Rick...

-Sean Mackiewicz

It’s going to be UNTHINKABLE!

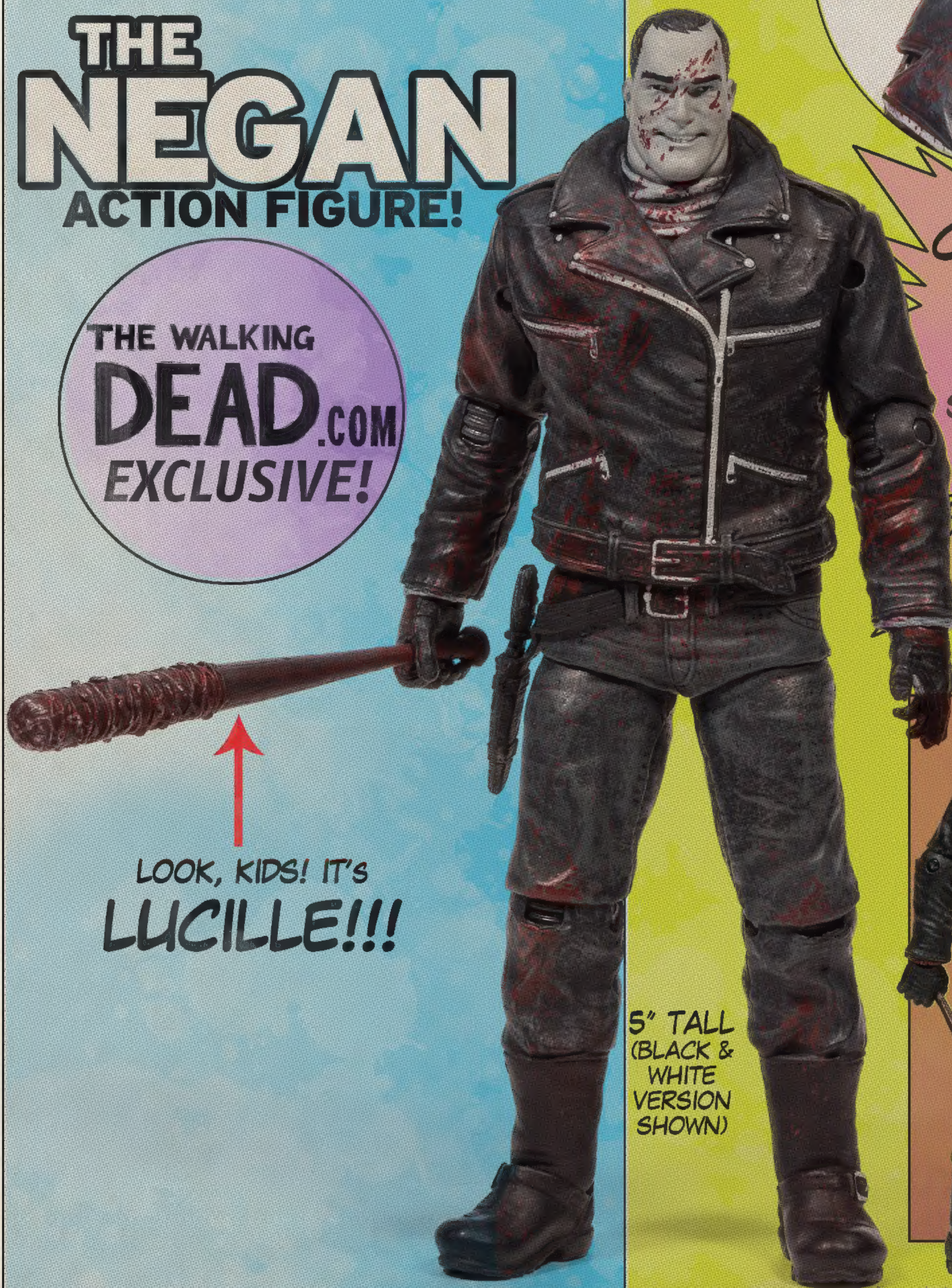
-Robert Kirkman

ALL OF THE DANGER!
ALL OF THE KILLING!
ALL OF THE SWEARING!

THE NEGAN

ACTION FIGURE!

THE WALKING
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EXCLUSIVE!



LOOK, KIDS! IT'S
LUCILLE!!!

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(BLACK &
WHITE
VERSION
SHOWN)



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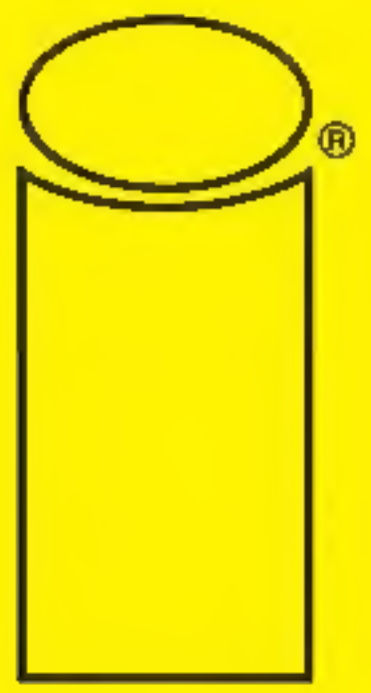
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